

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application.

Office Action Rejections Summary

Claims 1-4, 6-16, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cideciyan (US 5,177,482) in view of Matsui (US 5,825,309) or Millman, "Microelectronics Digital and Analog Circuits and Systems."

Status of Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-16, and 18-20 were pending. New claim 21 has been added without introducing new matter. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 12, 14-16, and 19 have been amended without introducing any new matter. No claims have been canceled in the current response.

Claim Objections

The Examiner had objected to claims 6 and 18 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Accordingly, the base claims of claims 6 and 18, i.e., claims 1 and 14, respectively, have been amended to overcome the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-16, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cideciyan (US 5,177,482) in view of Matsui (US 5,825,309) or Millman, "Microelectronics Digital and Analog Circuits and Systems." Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 as amended recites:

evaluating one or more source characters to determine an intermediate running disparity for each of the one or more source characters; and
determining a running disparity for each of the one or more source characters before encoding the one or more source characters based on a **current running disparity associated with the one or more source characters** and the intermediate running disparity of each of the one or more source characters.

(Claim 1, emphasis added)

In contrast, Cideciyan fails to disclose at least the above noted limitation.

According to Cideciyan, a next coder state bit $S(N+1)$ is generated on line 29 (referring to Figure 2) in dependence of the old coder state bit $S(N)$ and a function of the old data byte (Cideciyan, col. 7, ln. 39-41). Furthermore, when multiple data

bytes are encoded, each of the coder state bit is associated with a specific data byte (one of 27A-27D in Figure 5). Cideciyan does not disclose a current running disparity associated with the one or more source characters.

Furthermore, neither Matsui nor Millman teaches the limitations set forth above. Matsui and Millman merely disclose the use of lookup tables. Therefore, a combination of Cideciyan and Matsui or Cideciyan and Millman does not include all the limitations in claim 1. Thus, claim 1 as amended is patentable over Cideciyan in view of Matsui or Millman for at least this reason. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 8 as amended sets forth:

a decoder to determine a flip/hold bit for each of a plurality of source characters based on whether a respective source character will invert or maintain a **current running disparity associated with the plurality of source characters**; and

a comparator coupled to the decoder to compare the flip/hold bit with the current running disparity to determine a running disparity for the respective source character before the respective source character is encoded.

(Claim 8, emphasis added).

In contrast, Cideciyan fails to disclose at least the above noted limitation.

According to Cideciyan, a next coder state bit $S(N+1)$ is generated on line 29

(referring to Figure 2) in dependence of the old coder state bit $S(N)$ and a function of

the old data byte (Cideciyan, col. 7, ln. 39-41). Furthermore, when multiple data bytes are encoded, each of the coder state bit is associated with a specific data byte (one of 27A-27D in Figure 5). Cideciyan does not disclose a current running disparity associated with the plurality of source characters.

Furthermore, neither Matsui nor Millman teaches the limitations set forth above. Matsui and Millman merely disclose the use of lookup tables. Therefore, a combination of Cideciyan and Matsui or Cideciyan and Millman does not include all the limitations in claim 8. Thus, claim 8 is patentable over Cideciyan in view of Matsui or Millman for at least this reason. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 14 as amended is patentable over Cideciyan in view of Matsui or Millman for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, 6-7, 9-13, 15-16, and 18-19 depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 8, and 14, respectively. For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1, 8, and 14, respectively, claims 2-4, 6-7, 9-13, 15-16, 18-19 are patentable over Cideciyan in view of Matsui or Millman. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

New claim 21 depends from claim 1, and thus, having additional limitations, claim 21 is patentable over Cideciyan in view of Matsui or Millman for at least the

reason discussed above with respect to claim 1. Allowance of claim 21 is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

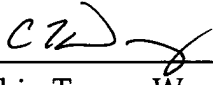
Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call C. Teresa Wong at (408) 720-8300.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), Applicant hereby requests and authorizes the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 9, 2006



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Application No.: 10/822,183
Cypress Ref. No.: CD04010

- 13/13-

Examiner: Williams, Howard L.
Art Unit: 2819
BSTZ Ref. No.: 16820.P296